



**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CABINET
DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

300 SOWER BOULEVARD
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601

**KENTUCKY DIVISION OF WATER
SOURCE WATER PROTECTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**



Source water protection is a common sense approach to guarding public health by protecting drinking water supplies. Ensuring safe and adequate drinking water supplies requires maintaining the quality and availability of present and future water supply sources. In the long run it is less expensive and more protective of public health to prevent contamination than to treat water to meet health standards. Similarly, it is less expensive to protect and maintain existing sources than it is to develop new ones. New contaminants of concern continue to emerge, potentially requiring more costly treatment of source waters if they have not been adequately protected. Effective protection relies on the combined efforts of the federal and state agencies, water suppliers, municipalities, businesses, institutions and communities whose activities have the potential to affect the source.

Source Water Protection Funding:

Section 1452 of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act provides funding support for source water assessment and protection in Kentucky through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) set-asides. The Kentucky Division of Water (KDOW) administers the Source Water Protection Assistance Program (SWPAP) which provides funding for source water protection to eligible applicants and projects. Please review the following program guidance.

Applicant Eligibility:

- Public Water Systems
- Municipal Entities
- Units and subunits of local governments
- Special Districts (including water districts or conservation districts)
- Associations
- Nonprofits under 26 U.S.C. sec.501 (c)(3)
- Educational Institutions



Project Eligibility: [EPA DWSRF Eligibility Handbook, June 2017](#)

Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be considered for funding. Projects that are eligible for DWSRF loans are not eligible for funding for this program. These include but are not limited to:

- Operation & Maintenance
- Treatment
- Routine compliance monitoring and sampling
- Transmission & Distribution
- System Consolidation and/or Interconnections
- Source Infrastructure
- Storage
- Creation of new system

Eligible projects must contribute to improved protection of one or more public drinking water supply sources. Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to the following:

- Implementation of source water protection measures
- Development of source water or wellhead protection plans
- Drinking water source research or monitoring
- Public Education and Outreach (brochures, workshops, and media campaigns)
- Acquiring land and conservation easements (at or below fair market value) necessary for protecting drinking water sources
- Development of local source water protection ordinances and land purchasing plans
- Implementation of security measures that protect the drinking water source

Source Water Protection Elements: <https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection>

Proposed projects should be developed from one or more of the following Source Water Protection Elements:

Planning: Applications for proposed projects should explain and demonstrate how the project will support source water protection measures.

Assessment and Delineation: Source Water Protection Areas (SWPA) for groundwater and surface water sources have been delineated and are available through the Kentucky Geoportal (<http://kygissserver.ky.gov/geoportal/catalog/main/home.page>) and are a part of Kentucky's Watershed Viewer (<http://epcpgis.ky.gov/watershed/>). Proposed projects can develop or update SWPA delineations and establish monitoring.

Contaminant Source Inventory: Proposed projects may develop or update contaminant source inventories and susceptibility analyses. Projects may involve evaluating existing and potential threats to water quality. This may include identifying or prioritizing potential threats based upon new or more detailed information and susceptibility analyses.

Management Strategies: Proposed projects may implement management strategies identified in existing Source Water Protection plans or areas. Proposed security projects must protect the source water directly.

General Funding Criteria:

- Projects must be completed within a one year time frame
- Projects must demonstrate a high likelihood of implementation
- Projects cannot exceed \$60,000
- Projects must involve current or planned public drinking water sources
- Projects must involve some element of source water protection
- Phased projects may be considered in subsequent years for funding
- Projects with matching funds may rank higher, but are not required
- Documentation of project partner commitment and/or landowner consent is required
- A Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) may be required for data collection and analysis
- Construction projects exceeding \$2,500 require a competitive bid process and must demonstrate a good faith effort regarding disadvantaged businesses
- Projects cannot begin prior to approval of MOA by KDOW
- Quarterly reporting and reimbursement
- Maintenance agreement, as applicable

Funding Approval Process:

Applications received by the deadline are evaluated for eligibility and ranked according to established criteria (see Ranking Criteria). Ranking criteria are designed to assign more points for the following project components:

- Support of Source Water or Wellhead Protection Plans
- Demonstrate a high likelihood of effective implementation
- Include matching funds (funding or in-kind)
- Qualifications of project personnel
- Documentation of stakeholder commitment
- Overall quality of the application

Once proposed projects are selected for funding, applicants will be contacted. Funding recipients must enter into an MOA with KDOW using application information. MOAs will include requirements for project timelines, budget, deliverables, reporting and reimbursement, and deadlines. MOAs will be provided to applicants for review and must be signed and returned to KDOW for final approval. Projects cannot begin until final approval of MOA.

Program Timeline and Reporting:

- **January 1** - Funding Open Call
- **March 1** - Applications Due
- **May 1** - Applicants Notified of Selected Projects
- **May - August** - Memorandum of Agreement Drafted (Anticipated)
- **September** - Projects may begin (Anticipated)

Quarterly Report and Reimbursement Forms are required to be submitted for all projects (November 15, March 15, July 15, and December 15). The last deadline will serve as the final

requirement for project reporting and reimbursement. All reports and invoices must be approved by the Division of Water prior to reimbursement.

Application Submission:

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact KDOW staff with any questions regarding proposed projects and eligibility criteria. Applications can be mailed OR emailed to:

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For program information, documents and forms please visit our [Story Map](#) and [SWPAP Webpage](#)